

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 31824
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Mitsuhiko Nishina, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 6774
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Application No.: 10/577,495	:	Group Art Unit: 2856
	:	
Filed: January 22, 2007	:	Examiner: Gunnar J. Gissel
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For: LIQUID DISCRIMINATING	:	
APPARATUS AND LIQUID	:	
DISCRIMINATING METHOD	:	

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/574,346, filed November 28, 2006, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to

that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

The reference cited on the attached form PTO 1449 was cited in an Office Action issued in related U.S. Patent Application No. 10/575,476. A copy of the Office Action is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Itri', is written over the printed name.

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**Please recognize our Customer No. 31824
as our correspondence address.**